

## RECENT DISTINCTIONS IN METEOROLOGY.

ROYAL MEDAL OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY (LONDON).<sup>1</sup>

One of the Royal Medals was conferred, November 30, 1917, on Dr. J. Aitken, who is distinguished for his life-long researches on the nuclei of cloudy condensation, embodied in a series of memoirs communicated to the Royal Society of Edinburgh. The latest of these appeared in the present year. Dr. Aitken's discoveries opened up a new field of investigation in physics and constitute a chapter of knowledge of great importance intrinsically and in their relation to the physics of meteorology. Dr. Aitken, who has pursued his work as an amateur, has displayed great experimental ingenuity, and his remarkable construction of the "dust counter" has provided a permanent scientific appurtenance of precision to the physicist and climatologist. Among other contributions to science Dr. Aitken has made important advances in our knowledge of the formation of dew.

## SYMONS MEMORIAL MEDAL, 1914.

The Symons Memorial Gold Medal of the Royal Meteorological Society, London, was awarded in 1914 to Mr. William Henry Dines, F. R. S., in recognition of his distinguished work in connection with meteorological science. In recent years Mr. Dines has been best known to American students through his observations and researches on upper-air conditions in England. He also devised two meteorographs for this work.

## SYMONS MEMORIAL MEDAL, 1916.

The presentation of the Symons Memorial Gold Medal for 1916 was made on January 19, 1916, to Prof. Alfred Angot, of the Bureau Central Météorologique de France, having been awarded to him at the meeting of November 17, 1915. The following statement is from the minutes of that meeting:<sup>2</sup>

Prof. Charles Alfred Angot was born in Paris in 1848. He has held the position of professor of physics and meteorology in the Institut National Agronomique of Paris, and has been on the staff of the Bureau Central Météorologique since 1879. In 1907 he succeeded to the directorship of the latter on the retirement of M. Mascart. In the same year he became a member of the International Meteorological Committee.

His contributions to meteorological science have been many and varied. His earlier researches were devoted to actinometry and solar radiation. He is also the author of important papers on the wind records of the Eiffel Tower, on the diurnal variation of the barometer con-

sidered as a world phenomenon, and on the rainfall of western Europe and of the Mediterranean basin. His most recent publications, entitled "*Études sur le climat de la France*," form a comprehensive study of the climatological data collected by the French Bureau. Up to the present only the elements, pressure, temperature, and wind have been dealt with.<sup>3</sup>

M. Angot is also the author of a well-known textbook of meteorology (3d ed., 1916), of the official instructions to observers of the French meteorological service, and of tables for the reduction to mean sealevel of barometer readings.

## SYMONS MEMORIAL MEDAL, 1918.

The Royal Meteorological Society has awarded the Symons Memorial Gold Medal for 1918 to Dr. Hugh Robert Mill, D. Sc., LL.D., a former president of that society, in recognition of his services to meteorological science. Dr. Mill is widely known as the present Director of the British Rainfall Organization (founded by G. J. Symons), as the editor of its annual volume "*British Rainfall*," and as the editor of Symons's *Meteorological Magazine*. The latter was started by G. J. Symons as a monthly publication of the observations of the Rainfall Organization when he established the latter, but has grown to be a useful popular meteorological magazine of wider scope.

Besides many papers on the rainfall and the meteorology of the British Isles Dr. Mill has written our well-known text, *The Realm of Nature*, and is the editor in chief of that compendious international geographical text *The International Geography*. Dr. Mill was born in Thurso, Scotland, in 1861, so we are justified in hoping that he has yet many years of usefulness before him.—C. A., jr.

## FOUNDATION MEDAL OF ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, QUEENSLAND.

The Editor is informed that Dr. Griffith Taylor, Physiographer to the Commonwealth Bureau of Meteorology, Melbourne, has recently been awarded the Foundation Gold Medal of the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland, in recognition of a lengthy thesis, illustrated by 36 maps, on the "*Tropical Settlement of Australia*." One aspect of the problem there treated is summarized in the quotation on page 589 above. A previous carefully worked-out report on elements entering into the problem is mentioned in the footnote on page 590. Other papers by Dr. Taylor have been noticed in the *MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW* for July and October, 1916. His studies in Australian climate and geography are already well known to students of that continent.

<sup>1</sup> *Nature*, London, Dec. 6, 1917, 100: 276-7.

<sup>2</sup> *Quarterly journal*, Royal meteorological society, London, April, 1916, 42: 124, with portrait.

<sup>3</sup> Recently he has made the following contribution: *Régime pluviométrique de la France*, par A. Angot, *Ann. de géographie*, Paris, 15 juillet 1917, 26: 255-272.—C. A., jr.